

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A fire escape device for suspending a person from a dwelling, said device comprising:
  - a housing having a top wall, a first end wall, a second end wall, a front wall and a rear wall, said top wall having an aperture extending therethrough;
  - a spindle being rotatably mounted to and extending between said first and second end walls;
  - a pair of gripping members being attached to spindle, said gripping members being spaced from each other, each of said gripping members having a bottom side, an upper side, a pair of lateral sides, a forward side and a back side, said spindle extending through each of said lateral sides such that said bottom sides are positioned nearer said spindle than said upper sides and said gripping members are aligned with each other;
  - a spool being rotatably mounted on said spindle and being positioned between said gripping members;
  - a tether being attached to and wound about said spool, said tether having a free end extending through said aperture;
  - a fastening assembly being attached to said free end for selectively attaching said free end to the dwelling; and
- wherein each of a pair of hands may be positioned on said gripping members and said gripping members rotated such that the hands are secured within the housing by a compressing action between the gripping member and the front wall.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein said top wall is arcuate such that a cross-section of said housing taken transversely to a longitudinal axis of said housing has an upside down U-shape.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein each of said front and rear walls having a flared bottom edge.

4. The device of claim 2, wherein a first distance is defined between said top walls and said upper surfaces when said upper surfaces are directed toward said top walls and a second distance is defined between said front walls and said upper surfaces when said upper surfaces are directed toward said front walls, said second distance being less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, said first distance being greater than said second distance.

5. The device of claim 4, wherein said top sides are convexly arcuate from said forward sides to said rear sides.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein each of said upper sides having a plurality of aligned finger receiving indentations therein extending between said lateral sides.

7. The device of claim 2, wherein said top sides are convexly arcuate from said forward sides to said rear sides.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein each of said upper sides having a plurality of aligned finger receiving indentations therein extending between said lateral sides.

9. The device of claim 1, wherein each of said upper sides having a plurality of aligned finger receiving indentations therein extending between said lateral sides.

10. The device of claim 1, further including a pair of loop members being attached to said front wall and hanging downwardly therefrom.

11. The device of claim 4, further including a pair of loop members being attached to said front wall and hanging downwardly therefrom.

12. A fire escape device for suspending a person from a dwelling, said device comprising:

a housing having a top wall, a first end wall, a second end wall, a front wall and a rear wall, said top wall having an aperture extending therethrough, said top wall being arcuate such that a cross-section of said housing taken transversely to a longitudinal axis of said housing has an upside down U-shape, each of said front and rear walls having a flared bottom edge; a spindle being rotatably mounted to and extending between said first and second end walls;

a pair of gripping members being attached to spindle, said gripping members being spaced from each other, each of said gripping members having a bottom side, an upper side, a pair of lateral sides, a forward side and a back side, each of said forward and back sides of said gripping members being substantially planar and being parallel orientated with respect to each other, said spindle extending through each of said lateral sides such that said bottom sides are positioned nearer said spindle than

said upper sides and said gripping members are aligned with each other, a first distance being defined between said top walls and said upper surfaces when said upper surfaces are directed toward said top walls, a second distance being defined between said front walls and said upper surfaces when said upper surfaces are directed toward said front walls, said second distance being less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, said first distance being greater than said second distance, said top sides being convexly arcuate from said forward sides to said rear sides, each of said upper sides having a plurality of aligned finger receiving indentations therein extending between said lateral sides;

a spool being rotatably mounted on said spindle and being positioned between said gripping members;

a tether being attached to and wound about said spool, said tether having a free end extending through said aperture;

a fastening assembly being attached to said free end for selectively attaching said free end to the dwelling; and

wherein each of a pair of hands may be positioned on said gripping members and said gripping members rotated such that the hands are secured within the housing by a compressing action between the gripping member and the front wall.